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REPORT

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INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY

USSR

DATE OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT

Scientific - Biology

HOW

Monthly periodical

WHERE

PUBLISHED

PUBLISHED

Moscow

NO. OF PAGES

DATE DIST. Jul Feb 1951

1950

DATE

PUBLISHED

Jun 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE

Russian

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR, Vol XX, No 6, pp 111-113.

SUCCESS ACHIEVED IN FULFILLING THE PLAN FOR RAISING PRODUCTIVITY IN ANIMAL BREEDING

The April 1950 session of the Bureau Administrative Office of the Department of Biological Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR, concentrated on problems dealing with fulfillment of the first quarter section of the 1950 plan on creating a scientific basis for raising the productivity of animal breeding.

Doctor of Biological Sciences G. K. Khrushchov, Director of the Institute of Animal Morphology imeni A. N. Severtsov, indicated that the following organizations are working on the problem within the scope of activity carried out by units of the Academy of Sciences: Physiological Institute imeni I. P. Pavlov, Zoological Institute, Institute of Animal Morphology, and Laboratory of Helminthology. In reporting on the progress made in the field in question, Khrushchov mentioned the following facts:

At the Physiological Institute imeni Pavlov, the function of the thyroid gland and lactation were studied. A synthesis of iodocasein was developed there, experiments on gas metabolism were set up, and surgically treated animals on which lactation will be studied during their whole life were made available. As far as fattening of farm animals is concerned, work is being done on the treatment of animals with methyl thio-uracil during the period of fattening so as to impede the action of the thyroid gland.

At the Institute of Animal Morphology, work on the experimental application of anodic and cathodic immunization antisera for the purpose of regulating the sex of farm animals is being .ontinued. This work was started in 1949.

At the Laboratory of Comparative Embryology of the same institute, material on the development of the body musculature of farm animals and birds is being evaluated. This material was collected last year.

Under the section of the plan dealing with the effects of differentiated feeding, work done at the Institute of Animal Morphology resulted in an average weight increase of 12% at the age of 22 months in an experimental group of calves. Progeny of the experimental animals in question is expected in the near future.

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In the course of an investigation on the growth and development of motor muscles of some farm animals, a method of counting myons (muscular units) was devised. Preliminary results show that increase of the muscle mass is due not only to growth, but also to the multiplication of individual myons.

Attne Zcological Institute and the Institute of Animal Morphology, work is being carried out on the comparative histology of the blood of rapidly maturing and slowly maturing breeds. Some relationships and differences in these breeds with respect to the reactive properties of connective tissues and the general aspects of blood composition were established.

After hearing Khrushchov's report and discussing it, the members participating in the meeting decided that the work done in the first quarter of 1950 was on the whole satisfactory.

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